

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY[261]

Notice of Intended Action

Proposing rule making related to high quality jobs program and providing an opportunity for public comment

The Economic Development Authority hereby proposes to amend Chapter 187, “Contracting,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rule Making

This rule making is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code section 15.106A.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rule making implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code chapters 15 and 15E.

Purpose and Summary

Pursuant to rules 261—187.3(15) and 261—187.4(15), participants in the High Quality Jobs Program (Program) must seek approval from the Economic Development Authority Board to amend the maintenance period completion date specified in Program agreements. It is as of that date that the Authority determines whether a business is in compliance with the job maintenance obligations required by the Program. The Authority intends to amend these rules to allow greater flexibility for businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic that would otherwise be temporarily in default of their job maintenance obligations.

Fiscal Impact

This rule making has no fiscal impact to the State of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rule making would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Authority for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 261—Chapter 199.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written or oral comments concerning this proposed rule making. Written or oral comments in response to this rule making must be received by the Authority no later than 4:30 p.m. on March 16, 2021. Comments should be directed to:

Lisa Connell
Iowa Economic Development Authority
1963 Bell Avenue, Suite 200
Des Moines, Iowa 50315
Phone: 515.348.6163
Email: lisa.connell@iowaeda.com

Public Hearing

No public hearing is scheduled at this time. As provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)“b,” an oral presentation regarding this rule making may be demanded by 25 interested persons, a governmental subdivision, the Administrative Rules Review Committee, an agency, or an association having 25 or more members.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rule making by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rule making at its [regular monthly meeting](#) or at a special meeting. The Committee’s meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

The following rule-making actions are proposed:

ITEM 1. Amend subrule 187.3(1) as follows:

187.3(1) Projects shall be completed by the project completion date and maintained through the end of the maintenance date. The contract will establish the duration of the project period and maintenance period. Requests to change the project completion date and the maintenance period completion date shall follow the process for an amended award or contract as described in rule 261—187.4(15). A business that was in compliance with its maintenance obligations as of March 1, 2020, but not in compliance during the COVID-19 impacted period described below, may request, and the director may approve, a change to the maintenance period completion date if the business demonstrates to the authority’s satisfaction that it failed to comply because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The business shall describe the impact of the pandemic on its ability to comply in such form and content acceptable to the authority. For the purposes of this subrule, “COVID-19 impacted period” means the period between March 2, 2020, and June 30, 2021. The board shall have the authority to extend the COVID-19 impacted period beyond June 30, 2021, if the board determines such extension is justified by continued widespread impacts on the ability of businesses participating in the program to comply with maintenance obligations because of COVID-19.

ITEM 2. Amend paragraph **187.4(2)“d”** as follows:

d. ~~Exception~~ Exceptions. Notwithstanding paragraph 187.4(2)“c,” the director may approve contract amendments for the targeted industries internship program consistent with Iowa Code section 15.106C, or a change to the maintenance period completion date for a business impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic as described in subrule 187.3(1), without board approval.